

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 5277

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6357

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, OREP

SUBJ: CODEL HARRINGTON

1. SUMMARY: DURING COURSE OF TWO DAY STAY IN SANTIAGO CONGRESSMAN HARRINGTON MET WITH THREE MEMBERS OF MILITARY JUNTA AND VISITED THE NATIONAL STADIUM BUT DID NOT TOUR IT OWING TO A DIFFERENCE IN INTERPRETATION OF JUNTA'S INVITATION TO HIM TO DO SO. CONGRESSMAN'S SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT WITH EMBASSY WAS SLIGHT.

2. I ACCOMPANIED CONGRESSMAN HARRINGTON TO A MEETING FRIDAY WITH 3 OF 4 MEMBERS OF RULING MILITARY JUNTA. PRESENT WERE ADM. MERINO, AIR FORCE GEN. LEIGH AND CARABINERO (NATIONAL UNIFORMED POLICE) GENERAL MENJVN. FOURTH JUNTA MEMBER GENERAL PINOVHET WAS OUT OF SANTIAGO. ALSO PRESENT WERE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICER GUZMAN AND ONE OR TWO OTHER MILITARY OFFICERS. JUNTA PRESS SPOKESMAN FEDERICO WILLOUGHBY.

3. HARRINGTON BEGAN NEARLY TWO HOUR INTERVIEW BY STATING THAT HIS MAIN QUARREL WAS NOT WITH NEW MILITARY GOVT BUT WITH U.S.G. POLICY TOWARDS CHILE OVER LAST 3 YEARS. HE CHARACTERIZED POLICY AS UNWISE AND MISTAKEN AND STATED IT SERVED AS CONTRIBUTING FACTOR PROMOTING FAILURE OF DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED ALLENDE GOVT.

4. ADM. MERINO RESPONDED THAT ALLENDE'S FALL WAS PRODUCT OF HIS OWN MISMANAGEMENT AND VIOLATION OF CHILEAN CONSTITUTION. MERINO CITED PRE-COUP STATEMENTS OF SUPREME COURT AND AUG. 22 CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES RESOLUTION TO BOLSTER POINT CONCERNING ALLENDE'S GOVT'S  
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"ILLEGITIMACY".

5. CONGRESSMAN STATED SAME TYPE OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH MISUSE OF CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS TAKING PLACE IN U.S. HE THEN ENTERED INTO LONG DISCUSSION OF PRESIDENTIAL IMPOUNDMENT OF CONGRESSIONALLY APPROVED EXPENDITURES IN U.S. CONGRESSMAN'S ULTIMATE POINT WAS THAT DESPITE SIMILARITY OF PROBLEMS, U.S. CONGRESS NOT ADVOCATING MILITARY COUP.

6. MERINO REGRETTED CONGRESSMAN HAD NOT VISITED CHILE PRIOR TO SEPT. 11 NOR WOULD BE ABLE TO STAY ANY LONGER ON THIS TRIP TO BETTER ACQUAINT HIMSELF WITH REALITY OF CHILEAN SCENE WHICH WAS QUITE UNLIKE U.S. HE THEN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN GREAT RELUCTANCE OF MILITARY TO INTERVENE INTO NATION'S POLITICAL LIFE AND ARGUED THAT COUP WAS MANNER TO SAVE NATION FROM ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CHAOS.

7. GEN. LEIGH TOOK ISSUE WITH CONGRESSMAN'S REMARK TO EFFECT THAT LEIGH HAD PUBLICLY STATED THAT MILITARY WOULD HAVE TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF CHILEAN GOVT. FOR 5 TO 10 YEARS. LEIGH STATED THAT HE HAS COMMENTED THAT IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST 3 YEARS TO REPAIR NATION'S ECONOMY BUT HAS NEVER PUBLICLY ADDRESSED QUESTION OF HOW MANY YEARS JUNTA WILL RULE.

8. MERINO MENTIONED ISSUE OF MARXIST INFLUENCE IN SCHOOLS AND ASSERTED THAT UNDER NEW GOVT. CHILDREN WILL BE TAUGHT TO THINK AND NOT BE INDOCTRINATED. CONGRESSMAN RESPONDED THAT SEARCH OF HOME OF AMERICAN FRANK MANITZAS IN WHICH LEFTIST BOOKS HAD BEEN TAKEN AWAY BY POLICE DID NOT INDICATE TO HIM FREEDOM OF THOUGHT WAS BEING RESPECTED.

9. MERINO RESPONDED THAT JUNTA WAS AGAINST MARXIST SPECIFICALLY BUT NOT LEFTIST THOUGHT GENERALLY AND REMARKED THAT ENTIRE CHILEAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM WAS CONSIDERABLY TO LEFT OF THAT OF U.S.

10. IN CLOSING STATEMENTS MERINO AND LEIGH POINTEDLY TOOK ISSUE WITH CONGRESSMAN BUT KEPT THEMSELVES UNDER CONTROL. BOTH REFERRED TO DEDICATION OF MILITARY OFFICERS TO TRUTH AND HONESTY.

11. CONGRESSMAN'S LAST STATEMENT WAS THAT HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR TOUR THROUGH NATIONAL STADIUM WHERE PRISONERS BEING HELD BUT  
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THAT MININTERIOR BONILLA WAS ATTEMPTING TO AVOID RETURNING MY CALL SO THAT I WOULD NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN NECESSARY PERMISSION. I INTERJECTED THAT I DID NOT BELIEVE THIS WAS THE CASE. I NOTED THAT I HAD BEEN OUT OF MY OFFICE A GOOD PART OF THE DAY WHICH PROBABLY MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE MINISTER TO RETURN MY CALL. AND WHICH INCIDENTALLY HAD ALSO PREVENTED ME FROM CONVERSING WITH CONGRESSMAN HARRINGTON PRIOR TO OUR MEETING WITH THE JUNTA.

12. MERINO IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED THAT THE CONGRESSMAN WAS FREE TO VISIT THE STADIUM AND VIEW ALL SECTIONS OF IT. AN APPOINTMENT WAS SET FOR HARRINGTON TO MEET WITH WILLOUGHBY AND STADIUM COMMANDER ESPINOZA AT 7:30 SAME EVENING.

13. CONGRESSMAN WENT TO STADIUM ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF AND ASISTANTS COLLINS AND VITALE. HE WAS MET THERE BY CBS CORRESPONDENT FRANK MANITZAS AND MRS. RICHARD FAGIN. WILLOUGHBY AND COMMANDER ESPINEZA WELCOMED GROUP AND STATED THAT CONGRESSMAN AND AMBASSADOR HAD BEE GRANTED PERMISSION TO TOUR STADIUM BY MINISTER. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT AMB HAD OTHER COMMITMENTS AND THAT HE WOULD REPRESENT ME. (IN FACT, NOTHING HAD BEEN MENTIONED BY HARRINGTON OR JUNTA MEMBERS ABOUT MY ACCOMPANYING HIM). ESPINOZA ACCEPTED EMBOFF'S EXPLANATION AND STATED THAT HE AND CONGRESSMAN COULD BEGIN TOUR.

14. HARRINGTON INSISTED THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP INCLUDING MARITZAS AND FAGIN ALSO BE ALLOWED TO TAKE TOUR. ESPINOZA RESPONDED THAT HE HAD HIS ORDERS AND HE COULD NOT CHANGE THEM. WILLOUGHBY NOTED THAT MERINO USED SINGULAR YOU (USTED) WHEN GRANTING PERMISSION FOR STADIUM VISIT. HARRINGTON ARGUED THAT COMPLETE FREEDOM GRANTED HIM BY JUNTA MEANT THAT HE HAD RIGHT TO BRING IN WITH HIM WHOMEVER HE WISHED.

15. CONSIDERABLE BACK AND FORTH ENSUED BETWEEN ESPINOZA AND HARRINGTON WITH COLLINS INTERPERTING AND TAKING PART IN CONVERSATION. AT ONE POINT ESPINOZA OFFERED CONGRESSMAN OPPORTUNITY TO PICK ONE INDIVIDUAL (BY INFERENCE NOT NECESSARILY EMBOFF) TO TOUR STADIUM WITH HIM. HOWEVER, HARRINGTONMAINTAINED ORIGINAL POSITION AND DEMANDED THAT ESPINOZA CALL MINISTER OF INTERIOR. ESPINOZA DID SO AND IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION GEN. BONILLA REAFFIRMED HIS ORDER.

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16 HARRINGTON THEN DEMANDED WE GET "ONE OF THE FELLOWS I SPOKE TO THIS AFTERNOON" ON THE PHONE. EMBOFF THEN CALLED ME AND I SPOKE WITH HARRINGTON, STATED MY BELIEF THAT INVITATION HAD BEEN MEANT FOR HIM ALONE, BUT ACCEDED TO HIS INSTANCE THAT JUNTA BE CONSULTED. HARRINGTON AND GROUP LEFT STADIUM.

17. LATER SAME EVENING WILLOUGHBY RECONFIRMED TO ME THAT JUNTA'S INVITATION HAD BEEN FOR HARRINGTON AND EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE. HE EXPLAINED THAT WHEN VISITING PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM OTHER NATIONS HAD WITH OFFICERS OF RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES TOURED STADIUM, THEY HAD NOT BEEN GRANTED PRIVILEGE OF BRINGING ALONG STAFF, FRIENDS OR NEWSMEN. CONSEQUENTLY JUNTA'S POSITION HAD TO REMAIN UNCHANGED SO AS NOT TO GIVE IMPRESSION OF FAVORITISM. WILLOUGHBY OFFERED TO TAKE COLLINS THROUGH STADIUM ON HIS (WILLOUGHBY

'S)  
OWN AUTHORITY.

18. EMBOFF PASSED DECISION TO CONGRESSMAN WHO RESPONDED THROUGH COLLINS

THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT BUT ON CONDITION THAT I ACCOMPANY HIM. I AGREED  
BUT WHEN EMBOFF CALLED NEXT MORNING TO INFORM CONGRESSMAN OF SCHEDULE  
OF STADIUM VISIT AND FACT THAT I WOULD ACCOMPANY HE RESPONDED THAT HIS

SCHEDULE WOULD NOT PERMIT HIM TIME TO VISIT STADIUM.

19. HARRINGTON SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY WAS LIMITED BY  
HIS EXPRESSED DESIRE TO RELY ON CONTACTS MADE FOR HIM BY COLLINS  
AND OTHER INCLUDING HIS LOST MARITZAS.  
HE DID, HOWEVER, SPEAK WITH ACTING AID DIRECTOR KESSLER ON MATTERS  
RELATING TO COPPER AND DEBT NEGOTIATIONS. ALSO AT HIS REQUEST  
EC COUNSELOR HART SET UP MEETINGS WITH CHILEAN ECONOMIST EMILO  
SANFUENTES IN HHENT'S OFFICE. HUNT ATTENDED MEETING BUT PRIME  
PARTICIPANTS WERE SANFUENTES AND COLLINS CONGRESSMAN MENTIONED  
DESIRE TO SPEAK WITH AIRATT CORCORAN AND MILGRP COMMANDER CAPT.  
DAVIS. LATTER TRAVELLED FROM VALPARAISO FOR MEETING BUT,  
CONGRESSMAN'S SCHEDULE DID NOT ALLOW TIME FOR IT. HARRINGTON  
DID NOT OFFER INFORMATION ON CHILEAN HE SPOKE WITH OTHER THAN MENTION  
TO ME WHEN I SAW HIM OFF AT AIRPORT SAT PM THAT HE HAD BEEN QUITE  
IMPRESSED BY CONVERSATION WITH RADOMIRO TOMIC ASSISTANT. ASSISTANT  
VITALI DEPARTED WITH CONGRESSMAN. COLLINS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE SUN PM.  
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